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September 8, 1954

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CONCORD, N.H.

Honorable Styles Bridges  
136 North Main St.  
Concord, New Hampshire

Dear Senator Bridges:

You have inquired whether you are obliged by law in your pre-primary financial report to the Secretary of State to include contributions received by you prior to January 1, 1954 or expenditures made and completed by you prior to January 1, 1954.

You are respectfully advised that it is my opinion that you are not required to include either. This opinion confirms the instructions to candidates contained in the pamphlet published by this office on November 15, 1953 at pages 13 and 14. Under the law as presently written, contributions received or expenditures completed prior to January 1, 1954 are not required to be reported. Executory contracts performed within the calendar year of the primary, expenditures partially completed, or contributions received within the calendar year of the primary, must be reported.

The present law does not require that a balance be struck or exist between contributions received and expenditures made. It is quite apparent that contributions received at a time prior to the calendar year of the primary may for reasons best known to any candidate exceed contributions received during the calendar year of the primary and hence reportable during the calendar year of the primary. It is further equally apparent that it would be possible for contributions received either in the calendar year of the primary or before to exceed expenditures made.

Honorable Styles Bridges -- 2.

I hope that this fully answers your question. I believe that it will when read in conjunction with the aforementioned pamphlet, which more fully covers both the language of the statute and its historical background.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Louis C. Wyman  
Attorney General

W/d